

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 14 No. 9 - September, 2006

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Howard, AB9FH

Hello once again.

By the time you read this, I will probably be employed again. It's a good feeling to know that somebody needs your skills and experience. What are your skills and experience needed for? Some of you are working, some of you retired. For some of you, your ham radio experience has contributed to your career. All of you, even the least experienced, have a chance to contribute to the hobby and also specific individual hams in your sphere of influence through the grand tradition of Elmering. Ham radio skills can also benefit the general public. Very few of us will have the experience of Bharathi Prasad, VU4RBI, to be in the midst of an area devastated by a tsunami, and to receive worldwide recognition. But your service won't be any less helpful even if it consists of telling a friend, neighbor, or relative that ham radio is still here, still helping.

I am watching reports about the still impending turn in the solar cycle with great interest. I am not on HF at all due to limitations in antennas, but the predictions that Cycle 24 will be 50 percent stronger than Cycle 23 have me thinking about putting some metal up in the air. Even a shortened inverted-L should get some results when I have the ionosphere working for me. Note to self: remember to leave room for DXCC Certificate on wall in office; hold space until 2012.

I had hoped to organize an Extra license class this fall, but that will not now be possible. I would have to miss most of the class sessions. Not possible for me, anyway. Anybody else want to volunteer? I can help with ideas about curricula, and I might actually be able to show up a few days to help teach.

Thanks to Ted, WA9RDI, for the program on his own journey through homebrewing at the August meeting. He has been experimenting with videotaping the meeting programs. See him about copies if you have missed one.

Until next time, stay radio active! 73 from AB9FH.



MRAC Officers

President	
Howard Parks	AB9FH
Vice President	
Joe Schwarz	N9UX
Secretary	
Charles Grady	KC9IIV
Treasurer	
Sarah Parks	KB9ZNC

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis ('05-'07)	KA9OFA
Tom Liebe ('06-'08)	WI9TOM
Ted Stiller ('06-'08)	WA9RDI
Jerry Wahlen ('05-'07)	WA9CGE
Dick Wood ('05-'07)	W9JBE

HamateurChatter Editor

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
New: adoneis@wi.rr.com
(414) 344-4694

HamateurChatter Emailings

Joe Schwarz N9UX

Regular Mailings

Dick Wood W9JBE

Club/VEC Phone no. is

(414) 332-MRAC or
(414) 332-6 7 2 2

Visit our website at:

www.w9rh.org

Address correspondence to:

M. R. A. C.
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695
or w9rh@arrl.net

NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130 ARRL voice news
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net	Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130 MAARS Swapnet
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270 Weather & Swap Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160 6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	Fri 8:00 PM 28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)	
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net	
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sat	9:00 PM	146.910- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800 FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365 MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910- Information Net
				Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

DEADLINE

The **deadline** for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the **7th day of each month**. If you have anything (announcements, stories, articles, photos, projects, hints) for a particular issue of the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then. You may contact me by e-mail at my new e-address:

adoneis@wi.rr.com or by snail-mail at:

**Pancho Doneis -
KA9OFA, 1958 N.
38th St., Milwaukee,
WI 53208
or by phone at:
(414) 344-4694**

CREDITS

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9EY	WK9H	KF9PU
AB9FH	K9IZV	WA9RDI
AE9G	W9NZF	K9RYW
	WB9PSE	

Our thanks also goes to:

Rita Doneis, Hal Newton, Howard Parks, and Tom Fuszard, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.



Thanks also to **Dick Wood**, for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter and to **Joe Schwarz**, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Mark Tellier, and Tom Fuszard who manage our VEC.

T h a n k Y O U !



THE FIRST INTERNET

By FRED LINN, W9NZF

In the period from before the Civil War through WW I, an early version of today's "nation-wide web" was built, operating throughout the United States and nearby countries—later, around the world, if undersea cable is included. This was an electrical means of instantaneous communication known as the TELEGRAPH.

The system operated using a series of electrical impulses, hand generated by a switch, or key as it was called, producing a series of clicks at the "other end" on an instrument known as a "sounder". The system was known as Dots & Dashes, and when sent in the proper order formed words and sentences.

The invention of the telegraph gave the world its first method of instantaneous communication over great distances. However, telegraph stopped "at the water line", and was not applicable to intercontinental communication; nor was it available to ships at sea.

President Lincoln virtually ran the Civil War with the telegraph, and established an operating office directly in the White House.

The problem of war-time use of the telegraph was its insecurity, as the wires were subject to "tapping", and anyone with the right equipment could read the contents of a communication without being detected. Later, undersea cables were in common intercontinental use. This solved a large problem, but not for the naval forces at sea.

Speed of communication was adequate for normal messages, and for train control on the railroads, but was too slow to handle commercial 24 hrs/day traffic. Organizations such as Western Union and Postal telegraph maintained commercial message handling nets, and improved their service (speed and accuracy) by means of the "Teletype" machine, a typewriter built to create electrical impulses over existing wire circuits using a system known as the "teletype code". High speed CW traffic nets existed commercially, sent by use of a punched tape at speeds exceeding 100 wpm. Prior to WW I, radio circuits were developed, again using the dot/dash system of the Morse code, different however, from that of the telegraphic "language". This partially solved the Navy communication problem "beyond the shore line", and ultimately rivalled the undersea cable service.

Meanwhile, the radio amateur frater-

nity picked up the improvements made during WW I, and started to establish its own circuits. Thus was born the first Internet! This enabled the average citizen to communicate freely, without the cost of telegraph or telephone service. In the beginning, however, he had to build his own equipment and obtain a government license to comply with international regulations. The one "hitch" in this scheme was the necessity of learning the Morse Code (different from land-line telegraph). He could now communicate with fellow amateurs (hams), and chat exactly as in today's Internet exchanges. This system exists today, although most operators now use voice activated equipment—still, however, an "Inter net" operation. (Radio equipment costs are somewhat less than an advanced computer).

Again, the old adage, "There's nothing new in this world", seems to have come true.

..- .- . -..

EVERBODY'S HAM CLUB

By JOHN MERKL, WB9PSE

Once upon a time the Club consisted of four members:

Everybody, Some-body, No-body, and Anybody.

Whenever there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would

do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that

Nobody would do it.

So... Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.....

John, WB9PSE

THEORY VS. PRACTICE BY HANS, AE9G

The interesting presentation by Ted, WA9RDI, at the last MRAC meeting made me remember a lesson I learned while acting as interpreter for the "759th Lt. Tk. Bn." in Germany, immediately after WWII.

Electronic parts had of course been unavailable and I wanted some kind of meter hard enough I could taste it. In the motor pool of this battalion there was a jeep being used for parts, and while studying this carcass, I noticed that the ammeter was still in the dashboard. Wow!

Having studied enough textbooks, I knew that to measure a higher current with a sensitive meter, a shunt is used. Aha! – If I could only remove that shunt, I would have the makings of an ammeter or a voltmeter, not the best, but better than nothing. So I asked whether I could have that. - "Of course – we don't want it."

Happy as a lark I removed the meter and took it home. When I opened it up, all I found was a straight-through strip to carry

the battery current from one terminal to the other, and in front of that, suspended, a little butterfly-shaped magnet which would tilt clock- or counterclockwise, depending on the direction and magnitude of the current through that big strip.

I was of course a very disappointed 17-year old, but I sure had a lesson in practical engineering design, which I have never forgotten.

CQ, CQ, CQ, THIRD TUESDAY

Come to CQ Third Tuesday at:

Old Country Buffet

16750 West Bluemound Rd.

Brookfield, WI

This gathering of HAMs meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

We start getting there at 11:00 a.m. and leave when we're full and/or all talked out

All HAMs are invited.

NEW TECH CLASS

The Student Amateur Radio Society of Greenfield, WI is now hosting a Technician license class which started Saturday September 16 and runs for six weeks. Class runs from 2-4 p.m. at ITT Technical Institute, 6300 W. Layton Avenue in Greenfield. The Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club has a testing session at AES on October 28th, the Saturday after the last class session.

There is no charge for the class, but students will need a copy of the new ARRL Ham Radio License Manual. To register or ask questions, contact Ken Hahn, WK9H, at WK9H.Ken@gmail.com (preferred, but not necessary) or call 414-651-1376.

Current hams are welcome and encouraged to drop in. Just be warned that I may put you to work. It would be great if the students could hear about all the clubs we are fortunate have in the area.

Thanks!

73, de Ken, WK9H

73's & 88's By FRED LINN, W9NZF

I was going thru some files awhile back, looking for paper which might be thrown out with no ill consequences, and I came across an old file on Lou Moreau, W3WRE. She was known for her extensive straight key collection, and with whom I had spoken several times in the old days, by CW only.

Later I got to know her better in meeting and eating with her on various trips to Rochester, NY., for AWA conventions. She was an extelegrapher for several railroads, and was quite a prolific writer for our "AWA Review" (yearly publication of the Antique Wireless Assoc.). She was a telegrapher who made Morse sound as tho' it came off of tape, at 35 wpm on a straight

key - 30+ years experience has a way of doing that!

In addition to all of that, she was a telegraphic historian, and maintained an extensive library as part of her collection, from which anyone, so inclined, might borrow.

The following is an extract from such writings:

"88" & "73"

The numerals 88 and 73 have become a tradition in communications language for over 120 years. The older of the two, 73, appeared in 1853 meaning "My Love to You". In 1857, The first official definition made it a "fraternal greeting between operators". Two years later, in 1859, Western Union made "73" a part of their "92 Code", to indicate "Accept my compliments". The fi-

nal change came in 1895, when "73" was held to mean "Best regards" for the telegraph, and later for radio operators.

"88" never received the formality of an official listing until it was adopted as one of the Ham abbreviations. It had been one of the operators' traditional terms well before the turn of the century. During WW I, "88" was used by the US Army Signal Corps, again strictly as an operator's abbreviation in unofficial communications. At the close of WW I, "88" achieved official status as part of amateur terminology: "love & kisses".

Signed, Louise Ramsey Moreau, W3WRE

There! I guess that settles it once and for all Hi! Her collection is now in the AWA annex at Bloomfield, NY.

EVENTS

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu., Sep. 28, 2006
7:00 p.m.

Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

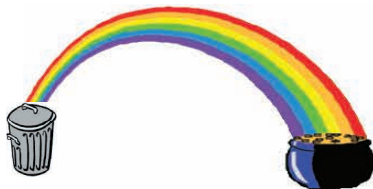
LCARC HamFest *
Sun., Oct. 8, 2006

Lake County Fairgrounds
Crown Point, IN
T/I on 147.00 rptcr &
146.52 simp.

Wisconsin Antique Radio Club
Swap meet

8 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Sun., Oct. 15, 2006

5917 S. Howell Near Airport
Milwaukee, Wis.



MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu., Oct. 26 2006
7:00 p.m.

Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Fox Cities
Amateur Radio Club SwapFest *

Sun. - Nov. 5, 2006

Waverly Beach
Menasha, WI

T/I on 146.76 MHz rptcr.

Fort Wayne HamFest
Sat & Sun., Nov. 18 & 19, 2006
Allen County Memorial EXPO Center
Fort Wayne, IN
T/I on 146.88 - rptcr.

Thanksgiving!!!
Thu., Nov. 23, 2006

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu., Nov. 30, 2006
7:00 p.m.

Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

* indicates VE testing
is available.

REMINDERS

Please check into our nets on Friday evenings.

Our ten meter SSB net is at **8:00 p.m.** at **28.490 MHz \pm 5 KHz USB.**

Our two meter FM net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for Saturday morning **breakfast** at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.** We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

OTA CW CLASSES

We are again conducting OTA (Over The Air) CW classes and practice.

These CW classes are on our W9RH repeater at 145.39 MHz with a PL of 127.3Hz.

The classes are currently on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. for beginners and Friday at 6:00 p.m. for more advanced CW taught by Buck, K9RYW, and Bob, W9CYI.

When he can, Dick, WB9PTC, will also teach beginners on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. All classes will last about an hour.

Please, check in and give them some feedback so they will know how they are doing.



EXAM SCHEDULE

BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

MRAC VEC
Exam Schedule
Fall & Winter 2006

Sat., Sept. 30, 2006 - 9:30 @ AES

Sat., Oct. 28, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., Nov. 25, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., Jan. 6, 2007 - 9:00 a.m. AMF

lanes, Waukesha: WARAC swapfest

Sat., Jan. 27 AES 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., Feb. 24 AES 9:30 a.m. @ AES

AES = Amateur Electronic
Supply

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI



The next meeting of MRAC
will be **Thursday, Sept. 28, 2006**
at **7:00 p.m.**

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

**Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390- MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)**

**Our program for the
September 28th general
meeting will be:**

**"Tropospheric Ducting"
by
Warren Schall, K9IZV**

Visit our new website at: **www.w9rh.org**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6 7 2 2



M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

First Class